Development of A-7 Rifle by Ordnance Factory, Dehradun

1472. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ordnance Factory in Dehradun developed a A-7 rifle which is at par with AK-47 rifle;

(b) if so, the details of the discovery;

(c) whether Government propose to give it only to CRPF and BSF personnel; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE) (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Small Arms Factory, Kanpur developed a 7.62 mm assault rifle as a substitute of AK-47 rifle for supply to the armed forces, central para military forces and state police organizations. Certain short comings have been pointed out during trial evaluation of this weapon by the Border Security Force. Further the Ministry of Home Affairs has advised the Ordnance Factory Board to develop a 5.56 mm assault rifle.

Need to Increase Army's Strength

1473. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army needs its strength to be increased commensurably; and

(b) if so, the action taken for immediate expansion of elite forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The strength of the army is dictated by security environment and threat perceptions. It envisages both qualitative and quantitative changes in the army to maintain desired combat potential against adversaries and to successfully execute operational missions in furtherance of national interest.

(b) Expansion of elite forces (Special Forces) is a continuous process to enhance the combat effectiveness of the cutting edge of the Army.

Loss of Pistol surrendered by General Niazi

1474. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE'be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pistol surrendered by Pakistani General Niazi to the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1971 war, has been found missing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the persons responsible therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the pistol and the present status of the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The pistol, which was stolen in 2003 from the National Museum, was the personal weapon of Rear Admiral Mohammad Sharif, Flag Officer Commanding of the then East Pakistan Naval Forces. The matter is under investigation by Delhi Police.

Missing Spares of Army Helicopters

t1475. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint regarding missing spare parts of Army Helicopters has been lodged with the Juswania Police Post of Badwani district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether these spare parts were being transported to Bangalore *via* road; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These stores were being transported in civil hired transport, from Delhi to Bangalore *via* Nasik.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.